

The President is desirous to engage you to attend the army for Utah, to officiate as chaplain. In his opinion your services would be important, in many respects, to the public interest, particularly in the present condition of our affairs in Utah. Having sought information as to the proper person to be employed, his attention has been directed to you, and he has instructed me to address you on the subject in the hope that you may consider it not incompatible with your clerical duties or personal feelings to yield to his request.

As a patriotic citizen, he accepted. At the conclusion of peace, his little diplomatic mission to the Indian tribes of Utah being ended, he tendered to the Secretary of War his resignation of the office of chaplain. It was, however, not accepted, because a new war had just broken out against the Government among the tribes of the Rocky Mountains. He was notified by telegraph to proceed to New York and embark there with Gen. Harney and his staff. By the time these reinforcements reached Vancouver the news of the cessation of hostilities and of the submission of the tribes had been received. The task remained of removing the Indian prejudices and correcting false rumors which might have brought on another war. This mission the General entrusted to Father De Smet.

Within two months the man of peace was back at Vancouver, accompanied by all the chiefs of the different mountain tribes. The object of the journey was to have them renew the treaty of peace with the General and with the Superintendent of Indian Affairs. The interview took place a few days later and produced most happy results on both sides. "As for me," writes Father De Smet in a letter dated St. Louis, November 10, 1859, "I had accomplished among the Indians the task which the Government had imposed upon me. I explained to the General my motives for desiring to return to St. Louis by way of the interior. He acceded to my desire with the greatest affability, and in the answer he addressed to me on this matter he bore honorable testimony to my services. However," he writes further in the same letter, "I was obliged to renounce this project (viz., of riding to St. Louis), for my